[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai]

friend Mr. Ananthasiva Iyer referred to some Devaswom Superintendent having been dealt with leniently. I may assure him that the case of this delinquent was seriously considered in detail by Government, and they were not convinced that he was really guilty of misappropriation. On the merits of the case which was long under the consideration of Government, he was transferred to the office from which he was originally appointed as Devaswom Superintendent. His promotion was barred for one or two years and he was fined. Government did not think of prosecuting him as it was not in the interests of justice and equity. I may assure the honourable member that in every detected case of fraud or misappropriation Government have never hesitated to deal out adequate punishment. It is not always possible to launch criminal prosecutions. As a matter of fact I know that in the Anchal Department a criminal prosecution was launched in a particular case which ended in conviction. But in all cases it is not expedient for Government to deal with the delinquents by starting criminal prosecutions against them.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to prosecute the man who misappropriated money in the Alleppey Municipality?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: I don't believe, Sir, that any such case was brought to the Government's notice yet.

President: The question before House is that a sum of Rs. 2,05,683 be granted under Demand VII—General Administration — Financial Secretariat and Accountant General's Office,

The question was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Sir, I move under Demand VIII—General Administration—Legislative Bodies, for a grant not exceeding Rs. 51,300.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of Government the question of T. A. and the daily allowance granted to the members of this House. Sir, it is a matter known to every one, but not necessarily admitted, that T.A. is claimed by honourable members from places from which they are not really coming but from which they deem it necessary that it should be thought that they should come for purposes of T. A. Sir, I do not find fault with the honourable members for it. Some may consider it as a condemnation of ourselves. But though I was also feeling that delicacy in the end I thought that this truth must be told. Some device ought to be found out to prevent people from being tempted to adopt such methods. Under the present rules it is only

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the persons who make up their minds to give statements that are not strictly honest who can get their T. A. amounts and he who happens to be honest will have to be content with a lesser emolument. But what I wish to suggest is that the whole T. A. amount alloted for the purpose of attending the regular sessions of the legislature and for the attendance at Committee meetings may be taken together, divided equally and paid to members as honorarium equally distributed so that there may not be any necessity for any such device. That will be beneficial in more than one way. There will not be this rush to get into committees. And elections to committee will be conducted on more proper lines and even the Committees will not prolong their sittings and more efficient work will be transacted. The people who do not really want to get into committees, and who have no interest in it will not be going for them. That will be conducive to the more efficient working of the legislative bodies as a whole. Added to that there will not be this temptation to do things not strictly straight. I think that Government ought to consider this question. Even if Government have to spend a little more on this account, the indecent anxiety of members to get into committees can be avoided. It is a great thing if this is done, Sir. I know, Sir, it is very pathetic to refer to individual cases. Every body knows that persons who are advocates and who claim themselves to be advocates practising in Trivandrum do claim T. A. from places other than Trivandrum. I think it is a slur on our selfrespect and Government should not in any way tolerate that by winking at these instances. The honourable members should not be compelled to adopt dubious courses. I am sure that when the honorarium to the honourable members is equally distributed perhaps some members may be gainers and some others losers. And the cost for Government may be greater. But I think there will be a saving effected by the committees not being prolonged unnecessarily. And even if there is the necessity of incurring a slightly higher expenditure this method should be adopted for the purpose of working the legislative bodies in their various spheres more efficiently.

Another suggestion which I wish to make is in regard to the legislative library. Sir, it is very necessary that the Legislative Council Library should be properly reorganised and the arrangements made more up-to-date. In the ordering of books the advice of the members of the Legislature must be given more importance. I know, Sir, that there is a facility now afforded for suggesting books. But no body takes it seriously because it is nobody's work. And nobody has the responsibility for seriously to look into the

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[Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

question to make the library more efficient Therefore, I think, a small committee of members from both Houses should be constituted to advice the Secretary in charge of the Library on matters connected with it. This would be useful in making the library better than it is at present. Sir, these are the only observations I have to make regarding the demand for the Legislative Bodies. With these words I support the demand.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I support the demand. I am not against the idea of Mr. Kottur which he expressed in supporting the demand. But I am afraid that he was much too frank and candid. As a leader of the party I thought that he would have talked with greater restraint. This is the year of grace 1939 and the old mid-Victorian days of leisurely middle class and upper class politicians going to politics are over. Now politicians are not drawn from the monied classes and as such public men who devote their time and leisure in legislative work may without blushing claim salaries and emoluments. In fact the T. A. or the salary received by any member especially the elected member—with apologies to Mr. Govindan who has been nominated —is necessary for him to be spent by him to keep in touch with the different parts of his constituency. Certain items of expenditure have to be indulged in by any member who wants to keep in constant touch with his constituency, to know the needs and grievances and opinions of the various interests concerned. Therefore, there is no harm in granting an honorarium or allowance for the work done by the honourable members of this House.

As far as the library is concerned, it is true that books are jumbled together in a way, very difficult to get at them. Therefore a Committee consisting of those honourable members who reside in Trivandrum must be constituted to advise the Secretary regarding the library.

One more thing that I want to suggest is this. The office of the Legal Remembrancer who is an indispensable adjunct of this House should be housed somewhere near the Legislative Chamber. When Committee meetings are held in his rooms we are put to great inconveniences. There are vacant rooms here where the Legal Remembrancer could be accommodated. It will facilitate easy access to books that may be required by members during Committee meetings. I therefore suggest that the Legal Remembrancer may be asked to shift his office to somewhere near this Hall.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Sir, I support the demand. The allowance allowed to members is too small and it has to be revised. The travelling allowance and the daily allowance now

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sanctioned is too small. The members of both the houses are expected and bound to assist the heads of department and the public. It is not possible with the small amount now allowed to cope satisfactorily with the work and it is with very great inconvenience that the members of the legislature try to discharge their duty and responsibility to the public. A resolution was unanimously passed by the other house to fix the allowance to the members i. e., non official members of the legislature at Rs. 100 per mensum. That was passed last year. Elsewhere also we find that non official members of legislature are paid fixed monthly allowance in views of this heary responsibility and in some places they are entrusted with some responsible work in certain departments. The same may be followed here also. I therefore request the Government to raise the existing allowance allowed to the members and convert the same into a fixed monthly allowance besides travelling expences.

Sir, in the matter of reporting the speeches, here a lot of mistakes and omissions are seen in some of the speeches sent for correction. I request that proper Stenographers may be appointed with sufficient experience so that the speeches may be correctly taken down, and no great difficulty is felt in correcting these speeches. This question requires urgent consideraiton, so that we may be sure of correct reporting—with these words I support the demand.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, we are thankful to Government for having accommodated us in this Hall furnished with very good seats and all convenience. Yet, we find one difficulty and, that is, there is too much of echo.

President: Steps are being contemplated to remedy that.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Two or three points have been stressed in the course of this discussion. First is the question of T. A. Government have never questioned the veracity of the statements made by the honourable members of this House, regarding their T. A. Any other alternative suggestion, if put forward by the members, would be duly considered.

As regards the Library, out of Rs. 1,800 provided in the Budget for 1114, only Rs. 1,000 has been spent. There is a Suggestion Book placed in the Library wherein the non-official members can enter any suggestion regarding purchase of books, but no honourable member has made any suggestion in that book from the year 1112 up to the end of 1114. Government are prepared to

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[Mr. M K. Nilakanta Aiyar.]

accept the suggestion for the constitution of a committee for the proper and efficient conduct of the Library, as suggested by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

In regard to the housing of the Legal Remembrancer's office in the building adjoining the Council Chamber, the matter was gone into fully. There is not sufficient accommodation available for the purpose.

As for the reporting of the speeches, the mistakes on the part of the Stenographers will be taken due note of.

Mr. Kottoor K. Kunjukrishna Pillai : May I know the honourable member's opinion regarding the suggestion that I have made as an alternative to the granting of T. A.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar : It will be considered.

President : It has been pointed out to me with considerable force that there are undoubted advantages in getting rid of this travelling allowance and embarking upon a system of monthly remuneration to the honourable members. But the difficulty would be that there might be some obstacle in the way of getting adequate attendance at the various Committees. That is an aspect which has to be kept in view. Probably, one solution, I do not mean to say that it is a final solution, would be to make a certain minimum payment and then an extra payment with regard to all attendance on each occasion. That might possibly be a solution, but the whole matter is being considered.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 51,300 under demand No. VIII—General Administration, Legislative Bodies was put and carried, and the grant made.

DEMAND NO. IX—MEDICAL.

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Ponnen Lukose : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 10,50,977 under Demand No. IX—Medical Department.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : സർ, മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഗ്രാൻറ് അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങളായി മിക്കവാറും നാലും അഞ്ചും മാസത്തേക്ക് ആശുപത്രികളിൽ മരുന്നു കിട്ടാതെയാണ് കണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടു വിശേഷിച്ചും സാധുക്കളായ രോഗികൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു.

പിന്നെ ഒരു പരാതിയുള്ളത് ചില ഡാക്ടറന്മാർ രോഗികളോടു കരുണയില്ലാതെ പെരുമാറുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അവർ ദീനക്കാരോടു വ

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